GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:244
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
PRODUCTION OF RIFLES AND LIGHT MACHINE GUNS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ordnance Factory at Trichy and the Rifle Factory at Ichapore have not been able to meet Army requirements for rifles and light machine guns due to production problems;

(b) whether the equipment supplied by them is also subject to `cold arrest` at sub-zero temperatures;

(c) whether there is a shortage of 5.56 m.m. weapon system in Armed Forces; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this discrepancy and action envisaged against those responsible for creating a security risk for the nation?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) The Ordnance Factory Trichy and Rifle Factory Ichapore are meeting the requirements of the Army for rifles and light machine guns as per mutually agreed targets.

(b) The problem of `cold arrest` at sub zero temperature which was noticed in December, 1999, was investigated by a joint team of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) and the Army and necessary measures were taken to avoid recurrence. The problem of `cold arrest` has not been reported thereafter.

(c) There is no deficiency of personal weapons for the soldiers. The programme of supply for replacement of the existing 7.62mm self loading rifles and light machine guns with 5.56mm rifles and light machine guns is going on as per the schedule given by the Army.

(d) Does not arise.